

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A moving picture decoding method which generates a predicted image using information on motion vectors and information on reference images, frames, the moving picture decoding method having ~~multiple prediction modes including a~~ prediction mode without motion vector decoding, comprising:

in said prediction mode without motion vector decoding:

~~a step of selecting, from among multiple candidate reference frames, a frame(s) to be referenced to in the prediction of each prediction direction in the prediction mode; and from among multiple candidate reference frames; and~~

~~a step of selecting~~ determining motion vector information to be used in the prediction mode, ~~wherein said step of selecting motion vector information is performed~~ based on whether adjacent blocks adjacent to a current block in a current frame, have a motion vector; and

performing moving picture decoding ~~is performed by~~ generating said predicted image using ~~the~~ information on said selected reference frame(s) and the motion vector information ~~on said selected motion vectors in said prediction mode.~~

24. (New) A moving picture decoding method which generates a predicted image using information on motion vectors and information on reference pictures, the

moving picture decoding method having a prediction mode without motion vector decoding, comprising:

in said prediction mode without motion vector decoding:

selecting, from among multiple candidate reference pictures, a picture(s) to be referenced to in the prediction mode; and

determining motion vector information to be used in the prediction mode based on an availability of motion vector(s) of adjacent blocks which belong to a current picture and which are adjacent to a current block; and

performing moving picture decoding by generating said predicted image using information on said selected reference frame(s) and the motion vector information in said prediction mode.

25. (New) A moving picture decoding method which generates a predicted image using information on motion vectors, the moving picture decoding method having a motion-vector-less prediction mode having a motion-vector-less block, the method comprising:

in a decoding of the motion-vector-less block of the motion-vector-less prediction mode:

determining motion vector information to be used for the decoding of the motion-vector-less block, based on whether predetermined adjacent blocks which are of a same frame and which are adjacent to the motion-vector-less block, have a motion vector; and

performing moving picture decoding by generating said predicted image, by using the motion vector information from the determining operation in the decoding of the motion-vector-less block.

26. (New) A moving picture decoding method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the motion vector information is a motion vector derived from at least one motion vector of the predetermined adjacent blocks of the same frame.